

SERMON HANDOUT for May 21, 2023



Sermon Series: The Elephant In The Room  
**“THE LURES OF THE FLESH”** – Part 4  
(Sexual Immorality)  
2 Corinthians 3:6 NKJV  
Dr. Joshua Beckley, Senior Pastor

**Quote for the Week**

*Freedom is a two-sided coin. On one side is privilege: on the other, responsibility.*

**SCRIPTURE**

† 2 Corinthians 3:6 NKJV

**JERUSALEM DECREE**

† Acts 15:22-29 NKJV

**FOUR THINGS OF NECESSITY TO BE PRACTICED IN THE CHURCH:**

**1) ABSTAIN FROM THINGS OFFERED TO IDOLS**

(That was the controversy in the Church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 8)

† Leviticus 17:7-9 NKJV

**2) ABSTAIN FROM BLOOD**

† Leviticus 17:10-12 NKJV

**3) ABSTAIN FROM THINGS STRANGLED**

† Leviticus 17:13-14 NKJV

(A little more context should be given to this Law, as God is instituting a way of killing animals for the consumption of flesh. He is banning the strangulation of an animal and allowing only for animals to be slaughtered in a proper way with the blood to be let out properly.)

**4) ABSTAIN FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY (FORNICATION)**

† Leviticus 18:1-25 NKJV (Abominations)

† Leviticus 18:26-29 NKJV

† 1 Corinthians 5:1 NKJV

† 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 NIJV

† 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NKJV

## INTRODUCTION

**Sexual immorality** - the “selling off” of sexual purity and involves any type of sexual expression outside the boundaries of a biblically defined marriage relationship.

Matthew 19:4-5 NKJV

**Sexual immorality** - implies behavior contrary to the accepted moral code, which may differ according to the society and the group of people concerned.

Studies suggest around 30–40% of unmarried relationships and 18–20% of marriages see at least one incident of sexual infidelity.

**Sexual Immorality** = “*porneia*” - fornication, illicit sexual activity.  
(Includes Pornography; Human Trafficking; Sexual Abuse & Assault)

## SEXUAL IMMORALITY FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE:

### 1) THE COMMONALITY OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY

It is widespread in the world; everybody is affected by it!

† 1 Corinthians 7:1-2 NKJV

† Ephesians 5:3-7 NKJV

† Revelation 9:21 NKJV

### 2) THE CAUSE OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY

The great idol of this country has kicked down the door.

Eros problem (erotica) - our society has overdosed on immoral sexual behavior.

The Kaiser Foundation conducts research regarding sex on television:

- 1,114 randomly selected programs discovered sexual content on 68% of all shows (up sharply from 56% just two years earlier).
- 84% of all sitcoms and 89% of TV movies involved sex or sexually oriented language, (not including homosexual relationships).
- During prime-time hours:
  - 75% of all shows featured sexual content of some kind.
  - Participants are getting younger
  - in the two years between the studies, the portion of the characters involved in sexual relationships that were teens tripled.
- Information available on the internet (drowning in a sea of idolatrous immorality and sex.)
- 10% of U.S. adults admit to having an addiction to internet pornography.
  - 17% of all women struggle with porn addiction.
  - 20% of men and 13% of women admit to accessing porn while at work.
  - 70% of women admit to keeping their cyber activities secret.
  - Pornography is literally wilting the life out of men and women.
  - Pornography is one of primary supporter of the Human trafficking epidemic.

